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Ernest Hemingway’s short story “Soldier’s home”, which is contained in his novel *In Our Time*, describes Krebs life after returning home from World War 1. Krebs is clearly not himself after having experienced war. This illustrates how war changes people’s perspective on life and it can transform them into totally different people.

First of all, before the war Krebs attended a Methodist college but after the war when his mother asks him to pray, Krebs responds by saying “I can’t” (Hemingway 76). This mindset of not being able to pray shows how war has taken away his hope in the future. The war experience has had a huge impact on his life. Krebs feels like he is alone in the world and nobody can understand him, not even God. This feeling of isolation is mentioned again when Krebs states “…the world they were in was not the world he was in” (Hemingway 72). Krebs has a hard time fitting in once he comes back home. He feels like he is an outcast in society and that he can’t relate to anybody.

Furthermore, when Krebs returns home from the war it seems like his life has no meaning or purpose. Krebs hangs around the house most of the time and he sleeps a lot instead of trying to find a job. His mother even tells him “Your father is worried too. He thinks you have lost your ambition, that you haven’t got a definite aim in life” (Hemingway 75). Krebs has a hard time finding his place in society. When he was in the war he knew his honorable place as a soldier but now that the war is over, he is having a difficult time understanding his role in the world. He is steady trying to “keep his life from being complicated” (Hemingway 76) and he says “he wanted his life to go smoothly” (Hemingway 77). This reflects how Krebs is living in a fantasy world since he is trying to live an easy carefree live. We all know the real world is never going to be like this but Krebs can’t see that because his mind has been affected by the war.

Also, before going off to war Krebs discusses how he was so into girls but now he doesn’t feel the same way about them. Krebs “…would have liked a girl if she had come to him and not wanted to talk. But here at home it was all too complicated. He knew he would never get through it again. It was not worth the trouble” (Hemingway 72). Krebs understands that a relationship takes a lot of communication but he doesn’t want to talk about the war. Plus, he doesn’t want to have to lie about it anymore. The experience of war has pulled him away from people and it is the reason why he can’t allow himself to open up to others. This is also shown when Krebs tells his mother he doesn’t love her then he states “I don’t love anybody” (Hemingway 76). This statement illustrates how the war has taught him not to love anybody so that he doesn’t have to experience sadness and pain when someone dies. Being in the war and being surrounded by death has taught Krebs that life can be over in the blink of an eye so he is afraid to let himself love again.

In conclusion, the short story “Soldier’s Home” by Ernest Hemingway shows the effects of war on a person’s life. After the war they can feel like they don’t fit in and they often have a hard time opening up to people and creating close relationship ties. War also can affect people’s faith and it can make it difficult for them to face the reality of life.